

Health Advisory: Multistate Measles Outbreak, 2015

Action requested:

- **Ensure all patients are up to date on measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine.**
- **Consider measles in patients with compatible symptoms, including:**
 - **Prodrome of fever, cough, coryza and conjunctivitis for 2-4 days**
 - **Generalized maculopapular rash that usually begins on the face**
 - **Koplik spots may appear on buccal mucosa 1-2 days prior to rash**
- **Ask patients about recent travel internationally or to domestic venues frequented by international travelers, as well as a history of measles exposures in their communities.**
- **Collect specimens on patients with suspected measles**
 - **Serum for measles IgM**
 - **Specimens for viral culture: nasopharyngeal swab or wash, urine**
 - **Route laboratory specimens through Public Health to expedite testing, do not use commercial laboratory**
- **Instruct reception staff to identify patients presenting with symptoms of possible measles.**
 - **Promptly isolate patients with suspected measles. Patients should wear a mask covering the nose and mouth and should be kept away from other patients.**
 - **Room patient immediately and close the door.**
 - **Only staff with documented immunity to measles should be allowed to enter the patient's room.**
 - **After the patient is discharged, do not use room for 2 hours.**
- **Report suspected cases of measles to Public Health at (206) 296-4774 immediately before discharging or transferring patient.**

Background:

The US is experiencing a large multi-state measles outbreak that started in California in December 2014 and has spread to six additional states and Mexico. From December 28, 2014 through January 21, 2015, more than 50 people from six states were reported to have measles (linked to an initial exposure in December at Disneyland or Disney California Adventure Park in Anaheim, California); there have been two cases in Washington to-date. Healthcare professionals should consider measles when evaluating patients with febrile rash and ask about a patient's recent international travel history and travel to domestic venues frequented by international travelers.

Resources

- CDC Measles Information <http://www.cdc.gov/measles/hcp/>
- Public Health – Seattle & King County measles resources, with fact sheets in multiple languages: www.kingcounty.gov/health/cd (click on “M” in A-Z index then “Measles”)